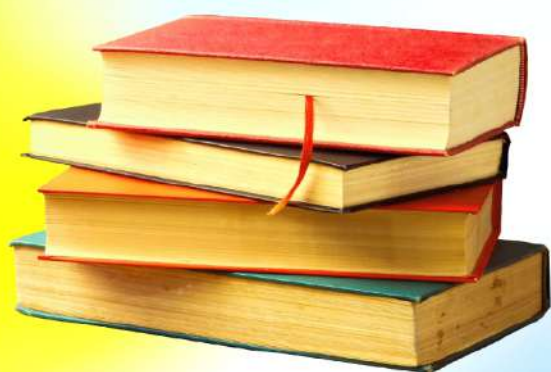


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PERSONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS Vs. TYPE OF FAMILY – A DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS

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INTRODUCTION

Indian society is collectivistic and promotes social cohesion and interdependence. The traditional Indian joint family, which follows the same principles of collectivism, has proved itself to be an excellent resource for the care of the mentally ill. However, the society is changing with one of the most significant alterations being the disintegration of the joint family and the rise of nuclear and extended family system (Rakesh K. Chadda and Koushik Sinha Deb, 2013). Home is the most important informal agency of education. It is an agency which is responsible for imparting early education and laying down the basis of further education. In the words of Ballard, "Family is the original social institution, from which all other institutions have developed". A home has earlier been defined as a place of residence or refuge when it refers to a building. It is usually a place in which an individual or a family can live and store personal property (Magnuson, 2007).

The home environment means the family background of the students; this includes all the human and material resources present at the home that affects the student's education and living, such as the parent's level of education, their occupation, socio-economic status and socializing facilities available in the house. But today the family structure, the nuclear and joint family changed the attitude of college going students. Its nature and responsibilities affects the students psychologically and personally. So this is the need of the hour to identify the role family structure in the personal and psychological development of college going students.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The home environment for many young people represents a place of instability and emotional upheaval where security, caring, and nurturing are depleted or non-existent. Separation, divorce, death, or abandonment removes one or both parents from the family. The lack of attention and affection that may accompany such change adversely impacts children. Subsequent emotional and financial difficulties of a single parent household further strain the family dynamic. At an alarming rate, young people enter higher education with dysfunctional family backgrounds that evoke stress and trepidation in students.

Thus the family environment or family structure may affect the college going students personally and psychologically. Hence it is necessary to study role of family structure in the personal and psychological problems of the college students. The present study may answer the question Does the type of family create personal and psychological problems among the college students?.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To find out whether there is any significant difference between the college students in personal problems of with respect to type of family.
- To find out whether there is any significant difference between the college students in psychological problems of with respect to type of family.

NULL HYPOTHESES

- There is no significant difference between the college students in personal problems of with respect to type of family.
- There is no significant difference between the college students in psychological problems of with respect to type of family.

METHODOLOGY

The investigator used descriptive method employing survey as a technique to study the personal and psychological problems of college students. The population selected for the survey was college students of the southern districts of Tamilnadu such as Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, and Tuticorin. The investigators had drawn a sample of 1055 college students. Personal Problems Scale and Psychological Problems Scale developed and validated by A. JeyaSudha and S. Francisca (2015) was used for collecting data. The investigator had used 't'- test, for analysing the data.

Null Hypothesis 1

There is no significant difference between the college students in personal problems of with respect to type of family.

TABLE:1
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE COLLEGE STUDENTS IN PERSONAL PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO TYPE OF FAMILY

(at 5%)

level of

significance the table value of 't' is 1.96)

From the above table it is evident that the calculated 't' values for financial problems, home related problems, society related problems and the personal problems in total of college students are greater than the table value. Therefore the college students are significantly differ in financial problems, home related problems, society related problems and personal problems in total. Comparing the mean scores the students from joint families face greater personal problems than the students from nuclear families.

Null Hypothesis 2

There is no significant difference between the college students in psychological problems with respect to type of family.

TABLE:2
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COLLEGE STUDENTS IN PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS
WITH RESPECT TO TYPE OF FAMILY

(at 5% level of significance the table value of 't' is 1.96)

It is evident from the above table that the calculated 't' value for psychological problems in total is greater than the table value. Therefore there is significant difference between the college students in psychological problems in total. Comparing the mean scores the students from joint family face greater personal problem than their counterparts.

The calculated 't' values for anxiety, adjustment problem and stress are lesser than the table value, therefore there is no significant difference between the college students in psychological problems with respect to type of family.

INTERPRETATION

The present study revealed that there is significant difference between the college students in personal problems with respect to type of family. Comparing the mean scores the students from joint families face greater personal problems than their counterparts. The present study drawn support from study of **Vaghela (2015)** states that adolescent girl students from nuclear families possess better social adjustment than the students of joint families.

Regarding the psychological problems there is significant difference between the college students in psychological problems in total with respect to type of family. Comparing the mean scores the students from joint families face greater psychological problems in total than their counterparts. In the 21st century life style of this generation has changed drastically. They seek virtual companionship rather than the support of family, friends and relatives. Thus they face lot of adjustment problems with previous and yester year generation in the joint family system. Also generation gaps may be the reason for personal and psychological problems in joint families than the nuclear families. The study of **Prabhu& Mohan (2014)** contradicted the present study reveals that the students living in nuclear families encounter moderate level of anxiety while majority of those living in a joint family set up seem to face low level of anxiety. At the same time it supports that, students from joint family experiencing moderate and high level of stress.

CONCLUSION

From the above results we can conclude that the type of family create personal and psychological

problems among the college students. Participants indicated that how the type of family creates personal and psychological problems among them. It is evident from the present study that overall family support is necessary not only for better educational outcomes, but also for the personal and psychological wellbeing of the college going students. The present study will provide decision makers and higher education managers with information about the role of type of family in the personal and psychological problems of college students. It will help them to enhance the college climate to get rid of personal and psychological problems. It is helpful to the parents to know about their college going children's problems and take possible steps for their better future.

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